

(ARIZONA DIVISION)

VETERANS PROTECTIVE & WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

(Personal)

December 20, 1945

Hon. Sidney P. Osborn,
Governor of Arizona
State House,
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Governor Osborn:

Enclosed is copy of letter I am writing to the Prescott Courier. Similiar letters have been published in most of the other daily papers of Arizona from my pen and the pen of other writers. The situation is growing more acute each day. And something must be done about it. Each public official must do his share and the greatest burden falls on the shoulders of the Chief Executive of the state. In other words you must take the lead. We feel sure that you will.

I spent about 40 minutes the other day in one of Phoenix's Pawn Shops and during that short period 18 veterans came in to hock something. I recognized several Arizona boys among them and talked to them. They are broke, cannot get a job. They were sober too. Some of them have not yet been able to find a place to live.

Arizona and all other states, for that matter, will never be able to pay the debt that is owed the veterans. There would'nt be any Arizona today had not the veterans won this war.

Go into any store and you find business goods and the prices charged are twice to three times what they were in 1941. Everything is inflated and the quality of merchandise is very poor. The small sum the veteran has when mustered out does not last very long. The profiteers have made and put away great fortunes. Not just the big war plant operators, but all businesses right here in Phoenix and all of Arizona. All establishments where liquor is sold have made great profits. This is proven by the fact that liquor license are being sold for from \$20,000 to \$35000.00.

The bread lines will be here and other Arizona cities within the next 60 days and they will be filled with veterans. Its a disgrace to Arizona and every public official in the state, as well as to each one of us who did not wear the uniform during this war. Arizona will lose its place in the sun unless something is done now to relieve this deplorable situation in veterans housing and jobs.

Most Respectfully yours,

W. B. Williamson

The governor of Arizona should immediately call a special session of the state legislature and ~~request~~ request that a law be passed to pay each Arizona veteran upon his honorable separation from the service a bonus of not less than \$500.00.

Great profits have been made from this war by every business ~~man~~ in Arizona, and some of these profits should be used to pay the debt to the veterans.

If the public officials will just stop and think a moment - those young men were taken from their jobs, from their classes in school, they did not bring on this war, but they have won it, and now when they come back home, they certainly are entitled to jobs and a place to live, and if they are disabled, they are entitled to a bed in a government hospital. Arizona does not have enough hospital beds for them, and its already been proven that there are not enough jobs and housing. And not one half of the veterans are home yet. What will it be when sixty thousand Arizona men and women all return home. Its bad enough now. Its a disgrace to every man and woman in Arizona who did not wear a uniform for these men to return from the battlelines and have to go into the breadlines.

Congressman John R. Murdock, Arizona's senior Congressman is now in Arizona getting a first-hand picture of the situation. When he returns to Washington, he will do his best to get emergency legislation passed to relieve the situation as far as the federal government is concerned, but right now its an emergency that Arizona officials must meet without any further delay or bickering.

There will be plenty of new faces in public places if our officials don't do something now.

Sincerely,

Phoenix December 20, 1945

W. Bill Williamson